

From: SSampeach@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2003 10:32 PM
To: adoptionregs@state.gov; sollersam@state.gov; lucyzachnblaze@hotmail.com;
Subject: Written Comments concerning Adoption Regs
To Whom it May Concern:

I am an adult adoptee, and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, specializing in adoption related issues. I would like to comment on the proposed regulations regarding intercountry adoptions. After reading the proposed guidelines, I would like to commend the U.S. government for implementing the Hague guidelines and for writing and enacting policies which will protect children from the abuses of child trafficking and unethical adoption procedures. The adoption business in America is a billion dollar industry. It has become corrupted to the point that instead of finding homes for children who need them, we are trying to find children for infertile couples. This must stop, and I believe the Hague guidelines will be a step in the right direction. Checks and balances, even within the state department that oversees the implementation of the guidelines will better ensure ethical adoption practices within the US and the countries that are involved. It will ensure that children are protected.

Another important consideration is the proper set-up and documentation of all adoptions that take place in the U.S. As an adult adoptee, it is important to emphasize the rights of the adoptee. Once an adoptee reaches adulthood, they have a civil right to their own adoption records and all identifying information regarding their origins and birth parentage. Amended birth certificates should become a thing of the past. Adoptees should have the same civil rights as every other U.S. citizen - to have their original birth certificate, with no falsified information. Children are not a "non-entity" to be bought and sold in the adoption market, with no rights to their birth heritage and identity. That is slavery. Civil rights have got to be reinstated to adult adoptees.

I would also recommend that extensive pre- and post-adoption services and counseling be an integral part of the adoption practices regulated by the federal government. Research has proven that children who are adopted are not simply "blank slates" with no need to grieve the losses they have experienced. Pre-natal research indicates that even infants who are adopted shortly after birth experience profound grief, and the adoptive parents should be educated regarding the unique needs of adopted children. Adoption should no longer be about meeting the needs of the adoptive parents, but the children.

I would be very interested in working with the entities who are writing the policies that will be implemented, or sitting on any committees or citizen's groups regarding adoption policies and procedures. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
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Recommended Reading:

Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew by Sherrie Eldridge

Adoption Healing by Joe Soll

Primal Wound by Nancy Vernier

Journey of the Adopted Self by Betty Jean Lifton

Birthright by Jean Strauss